

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bridged cartilage plug device for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living mammal, comprising a continuous upper surface and a plurality of anchoring elements extending therefrom.
2. The bridged plug device of claim 1, wherein said continuous layer and said anchoring elements have different hardnesses.
3. The bridged plug device of claim 2, wherein said anchoring elements are harder than said continuous surface.
4. The bridged plug device of claim 1, wherein said continuous layer has an upper surface and a lower surface and wherein said upper surface is curved.
5. The bridged plug device of claim 4, wherein said lower surface is curved.
6. The bridged plug device of claim 4, wherein said lower surface is flat.
7. The bridged plug device of claim 4, wherein said upper surface is convex.
8. The bridged plug device of claim 4, wherein said upper surface is concave.
9. The bridged plug device of claim 1, wherein said continuous layer has an upper surface and a lower surface and wherein said upper surface is flat.
10. The bridged plug device of claim 9, wherein said lower surface is flat.

11. The bridged plug device of claim 1, wherein said anchoring elements are cylindrical.

12. The bridged plug device of claim 1, wherein said anchoring elements have exterior surfaces with ridges formed therein.

13. The bridged plug device of claim 12, wherein said ridges have a barbed configuration.

14. The bridged plug device of claim 1, wherein said anchoring plugs are aligned with one another and said continuous upper layer comprises an elongated strip.

15. The bridged plug device of claim 1, wherein said continuous upper layer defines a two dimensional shape having a plurality of corners and said anchoring elements are positioned at said corners.

16. The bridged plug device of claim 1, wherein said plug device has porous surfaces.

17. The bridged plug device of claim 1, wherein said upper surface is mechanically joined to said anchoring elements.

18. The bridged plug device of claim 17, wherein said upper surface has a protrusion extending from there below, said anchoring element has a void formed therein for receiving said protrusion and said protrusion has a barb-like projection formed about its periphery for positively retaining said protrusion in said void upon full insertion thereinto.

19. The bridged plug device of claim 18, wherein said anchoring elements are configured to radially expand upon receipt of said protrusion within said void.

20. The bridged plug device of claim 19, wherein said anchoring element has an expansion slit formed therein to facilitate the expansion of said element upon receipt of said protrusion within said void.